

DEKALB

HISTORY

COURTHOUSE

GOVERNMENT

1983

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AN
ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL GUIDE
TO
DEKALB COUNTY
COURTHOUSES
AND
DEKALB COUNTY
GOVERNMENT

By
JOHN MARTIN SMITH

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Auburn
DeKalb County, Indiana

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John Martin Smith
P.O. Box 686
Auburn, Indiana 46706

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	4
I—Governmental Jurisdiction Over What is now DeKalb County.....	6
II—Formation of DeKalb County.....	7
III—Temporary Courthouse.....	9
IV—Frame Courthouse Built in 1843.....	10
V—Brick Courthouse Built in 1864.....	12
VI—Another Temporary Courthouse and the Great Fire of 1913.....	16
VII—The New Courthouse.....	18
A. First Stages.....	18
B. The Cornerstone Ceremonies.....	20
C. The Most Magnificent Building Ever Built in DeKalb County.....	21
D. Mural Paintings.....	26
E. The Dedication.....	28
VIII—DeKalb County Jails.....	29
IX—DeKalb County Farm.....	30
X—County Governmental Functions.....	31
A. Introduction.....	31
B. Board of County Commissioners.....	32
C. County Council.....	36
D. County Auditor.....	36
E. County Treasurer.....	36
F. County Recorder.....	37
G. Clerk of the Circuit Court.....	37
H. County Surveyor.....	38
I. County Sheriff.....	39
J. Prosecuting Attorney.....	39
K. County Coroner.....	40
L. County Assessor.....	41
M. County Appointive Administrative Officials.....	41
N. County Governmental Agencies.....	42
O. DeKalb Circuit Court.....	43
P. DeKalb Superior Court.....	43
Q. Jury Commissioners.....	44
R. Grand Jury.....	44
S. Public Defender.....	44
T. Probation Department.....	44

INTRODUCTION

The DeKalb County Courthouse and the governmental functions which it houses are the first and closest contacts that local citizens have with their government and its institutions. The understanding of local government is essential to the understanding of all government. The study of county government and its functions is satisfying in that a citizen can have personal contact with it. He can go to the courthouse; he can become personally acquainted with public officials; and he can observe his government in action.

The DeKalb County Courthouse is significant as a building. The circumstances and details of its construction, as well as the buildings which preceded it, have become obscure. What was located on the square before

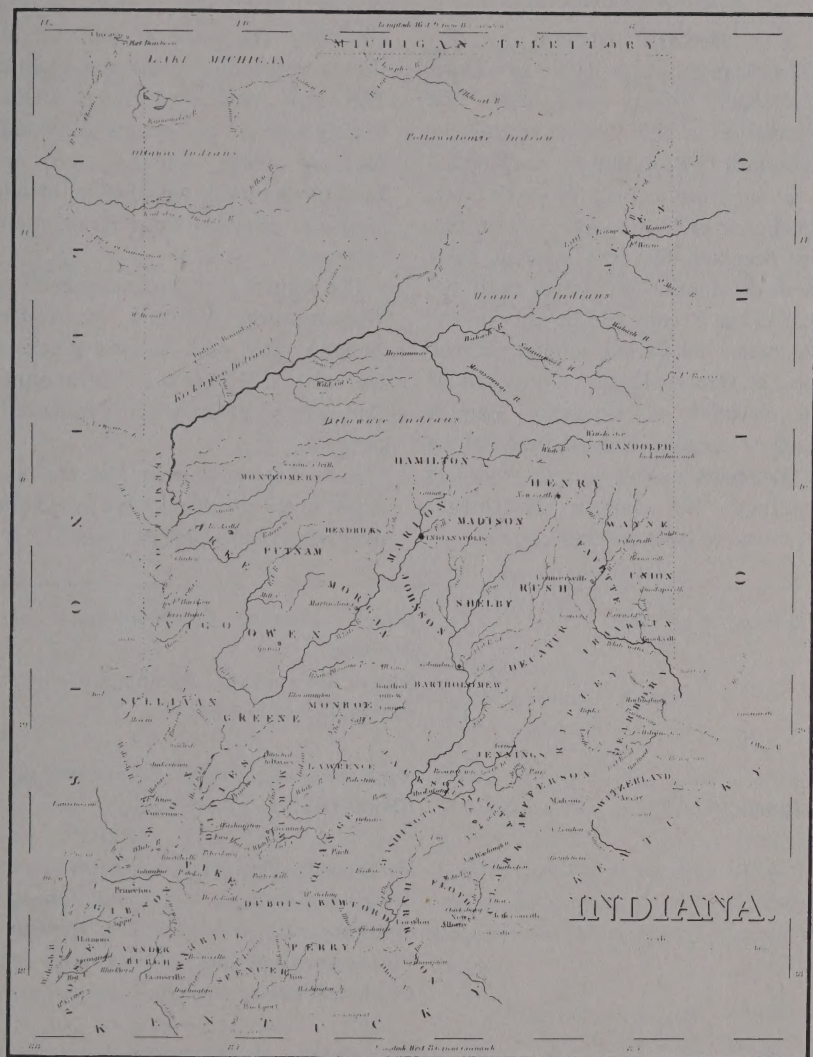
the present courthouse was built? Has the public square always been the public square? Why was such a magnificent building built in 1911? Questions such as these are frequently asked by the many persons who annually tour the DeKalb County Courthouse. This book will answer some of these questions and give interested persons a comprehensive overview of the history and function of DeKalb County as a governmental entity.

The publication of an Illustrated Historical Guide to DeKalb County Courthouses and DeKalb County Government has been authorized and financially supported by the DeKalb County Commissioners, who are to be commended for their interest in local history and the fine manner in which the DeKalb County Courthouse is maintained.

John Martin Smith

DeKalb County, Indiana

May 1983



Map of Indiana c. 1830. What is now DeKalb County is shown as Pottawatomie Indian Territory, although the area was attached to Allen County for jurisdictional purposes. (John Martin Smith Collection)

I.
GOVERNMENTAL
JURISDICTION
OVER WHAT IS NOW
DeKALB COUNTY

The geographical area we now know as DeKalb County was under the jurisdiction of many units of government until DeKalb County was formed as a separate county with its own jurisdiction on May 1, 1837. The French first occupied the area in about 1669. Their domination continued until the close of the French and Indian Wars in 1763 when the British gained control. General George Rogers Clark, under the direction of Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia, defeated the British at Vincennes on February 25, 1779 and acquired the whole Northwest Territory for the American cause.

From that time, the area was under the governmental jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Northwest Territory, the Indiana Territory, the State of Indiana, and then a succession of Indiana counties. The area now comprising DeKalb County was not always geographically part of these counties, but was sometimes merely assigned to them for civil and criminal legal jurisdictional purposes.

The seats of government ranged from Williamsburg, Virginia to Auburn, Indiana, with such historic places as Detroit, Michigan; Vincennes, Corydon, and Fort Wayne, Indiana, in between.

Here follows a chronological chart showing the governmental jurisdiction over what is now DeKalb County:

December 12, 1778

Illinois County, Commonwealth of Virginia.

Seat of government: Williamsburg and Richmond (after 1780).

*.....to
January 5, 1782*

None, after expiration of Act creating Illinois County.

*.....to
July 13, 1787*

Northwest Territory. Capital not designated but Governor and Judges met once in Marietta (Ohio), once in Vincennes (Indiana), and six times in Cincinnati (Ohio) each year.

*.....to
June 20, 1790*

*Knox County, Northwest Territory.
Seat of government: Vincennes.*

*.....to
August 15, 1796*

*Wayne County, Northwest Territory.
Seat of government: Detroit.*

*.....to
May 7, 1800*

*Knox County, Indiana Territory.
Seat of government: Vincennes.*

....to December 11, 1816	Unorganized Territory, State of Indiana. Seat of government: Corydon.
....to December 23, 1820	Randolph County. Seat of government: Winchester.
....to April 1, 1824	Allen County. Seat of government: Fort Wayne.
....to April 1, 1830	Elkhart County (Except south half of south tier of townships, which remained attached to Allen County) Seat of government: Goshen.
....to April 1, 1832	LaGrange County. Seat of government: Mongoquinong, which was changed to Lima (Now Howe).
....to February 7, 1835	DeKalb County (authorized). Seat of government: Lima.
....to May 1, 1837	DeKalb County. Seat of government: Auburn.

Governmental jurisdiction over the area was limited by the practical fact that Indians held title to the geographical area until relinquished by the Pottawatomies pursuant to the Treaty of Carey Mission (near Niles, Michigan) in 1828. Until that time there were few non-Indian persons in the area. The first settlement occurred in 1833. The last Indians were removed in 1840.

II. FORMATION OF DeKALB COUNTY

DeKalb County was authorized as a separate county by an Act of the Indiana Legislature which was passed

February 7, 1835. At the same time the formation of Adams, Kosciusko, Marshall, Noble, Steuben, Wells, and Whitley Counties was authorized.

The geographical area included within DeKalb County was described as follows:

Beginning at the southwest corner of township thirty-three north of range twelve east, thence east with the line of Allen County to the line of the State of Ohio, thence north with said line eighteen miles, thence west with the line dividing townships thirty-five and thirty-six to the line dividing ranges

eleven and twelve east, thence south with said range line eighteen miles to the line dividing ranges eleven and twelve east, then south with said range line eighteen miles to the place of beginning.

The county is eighteen miles north and south by twenty and one half miles east and west. It contains 11,520 acres of land. Generally, the size of counties was determined by the distance a person could travel and return in one day on horseback, so that settlers would be no more than one-half day away from the seat of county government. Originally there were nine full townships and three half-townships.

DeKalb County was named in honor of Baron DeKalb, a Revolutionary War hero. He was a German Noble who joined the American Army and was commissioned a general. He died at the Battle of Camden, fought near Sanders Creek, North Carolina, on August 6, 1780.

DeKalb County and the other northeastern counties were to remain only "paper counties" for two years, however. During this time, DeKalb County continued to be attached to LaGrange County for civil and criminal jurisdictional purposes.

By an Act passed January 14, 1837, and effective May 1, 1837, DeKalb County was granted independent jurisdiction and became a full-fledged county. The population at that time was about one thousand persons.

The first election was held in early July, 1837, and Peter Fair, Samuel Widney, and Wesley Park were selected as commissioners. They held their first meeting at the cabin of Wesley Park in Auburn on July 25, 1837.



*Baron DeKalb for whom DeKalb County was named.
(John Martin Smith Collection)*

Competition as to the site of the county seat soon developed. Messrs. Rogers and Hamilton acquired land in the geographical center of the new county and platted the town of Centerville. Wesley Park and Judge John Badlam Howe of LaGrange County platted the town of Auburn on the banks of Cedar Creek. Their town was two miles south and three miles west of the geographical center of the county.

Edward Littlefield of LaGrange County, Cornelius Gilmore of Steuben County, Samuel Dibble of Elkhart County, James Latta of Noble County, and Robert Work of Allen County had been appointed commissioners to select the new county seat. They, of course, chose Auburn. Centerville was never developed and remains farm land.

During the spring of 1835, Park and Howe had platted the "Village of Auburn." The plat included a public square and stated, "The Public Square is 20 rods in length by 17 in breadth... The Public Square... (is) donated to public use." The square obviously encouraged the selection of Auburn as the county seat, as did the gift of certain lots to the county to be sold and the proceeds used to establish a county library. A county library was never established, and the proceeds from the sale of the lots was apparently allocated to the building of the first permanent courthouse.

III.

TEMPORARY COURTHOUSES

Two temporary courthouses preceded the building of the first permanent courthouse in 1843. The first was the cabin of Wesley Park, and the second was an early schoolhouse on

North Main Street.

Wesley Park and Judge John Badlam Howe had entered the land which is the present site of Auburn on March 23, 1836 at the government land office in Fort Wayne. This was after the formation of DeKalb County was authorized but before it was granted jurisdiction.

In August, 1836, Park erected a cabin on Cedar Creek north of the present business district. It was eighteen by twenty feet and one and a half stories high. Its exterior walls were made of logs. Initially, the cabin served the DeKalb County pioneers as a store, hotel, and church.

After the new county was granted governmental jurisdiction, Wesley Park's cabin became the first DeKalb County Courthouse and Jail. As a jail, the cabin served well. Prisoners were simply put up into the loft and the ladder removed. The first story was used for a courtroom.

As sheriff, first appointed and afterward elected, Wesley Park told an interesting incident about one of the county's first judges. It seems that the judge became drunk during a court session and sentenced one Joseph Bashford to receive a whipping, and swore that, since he was in court and sentence had been passed, he should personally inflict the penalty. As the judge approached the defendant with the avowed intention, Sheriff Park seized him, gave him a whirl, and plainly told him that, if the court persisted in inflicting the penalty, the sheriff would "put the court up the ladder," whereupon the court acknowledged the authority of the sheriff and adjourned peaceably.

The Park cabin continued to serve as a courthouse until 1843, when a

schoolhouse was built on North Main Street, in which a room was made into a courtroom. The fittings were crude — a rough board platform, a fence of unplanned boards for a bar, and an old

cracked box stove which, when used, smoked so much that judges, jurors, and lawyers were often moved to tears. Both the May and October, 1843, terms of court were held in this building.

Monday Morning seven o'clock Nov 6th 1840
Present the same Commissioners and officers as yesterday
After Pledge to Business
Ordered that the Plom be set out by no est the
May session 1840 for Building a Court House in Auburn
in this County. Be Resolved once that the Plom be 30
feet wide no to. Substitute the following Plom to wit
Thirty feet North and South and forty feet East and West
with front portico. Six feet of three inch board which
shall be a portico and four feet shall be elevated to the
main entry forming a court room thirty feet square it is to
be elevated up in front of the stairs to the right of the Port
and over head over the Portico also build up the right
of the first story between the main Entryway and Court

Minutes of the session of the DeKalb County Commissioners held at 7 a.m., November 6, 1840, whereby the first permanent courthouse was authorized and its specifications set forth. (The original minute book is on file at the office of the DeKalb County Auditor.)

IV. FRAME COURTHOUSE BUILT IN 1843

The infant county's officials began making plans for a permanent courthouse at an early date. At the May, 1840, session of the Commissioners' Court, Thomas J. Freeman, Wesley Park, and Nelson Payne were appointed superintendents for the construction of such a building. It was to be located on the public square with dimensions of

"...thirty feet north and south, and forty feet east and west, six feet of which shall a portico, four feet to stairs and wood

rooms, leaving courthouse thirty feet long. Two front doors and an alley from each to circle fronting the judge's bench which was to be elevated a few feet above the floor. The clerk's seat and table to be in front of the bench. The criminal's box also to be in front of the bench. The rooms to be lighted by eleven twenty-four light windows above and below. The front of the portico to be supported by four turned pillars fifteen inches in diameter..."

Funds for the erection of the Courthouse were to be obtained through the

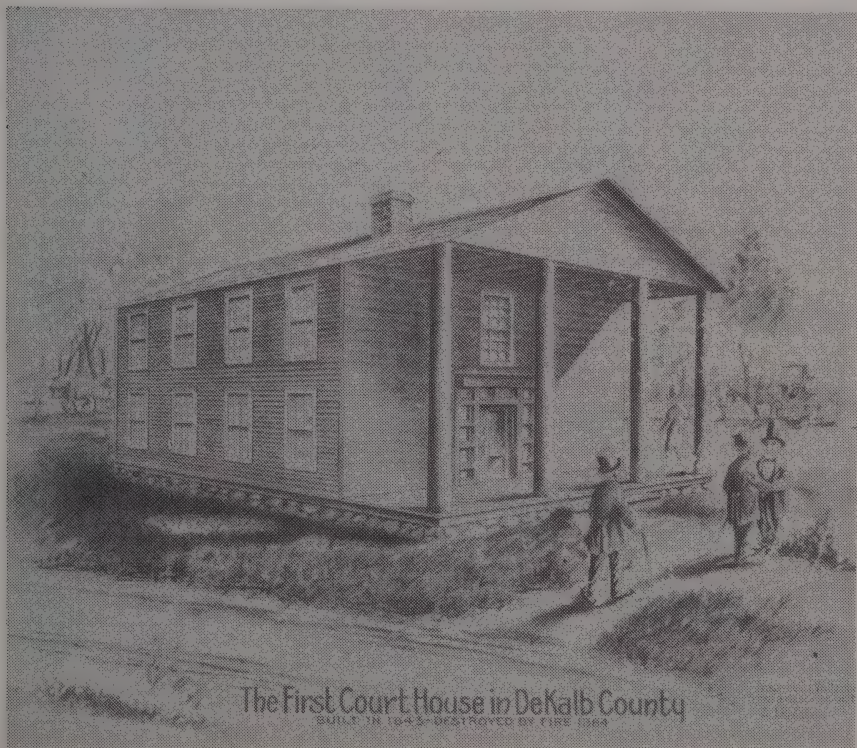
sale of lots belonging to the county, other than those set aside for the financing of the jail and for other reasons.

At an 1841 Commissioners' Court session the specific plans were received, approved, and bids requested. Work was to begin by July 1, 1842. James Hite, a carpenter living southeast of Auburn, received the contract for the sum of eight hundred dollars. Lyman Chidsey assisted him in framing the building. The project apparently progressed slowly, as Judge Mott reported that when he first came to DeKalb County in 1843 the public square around the courthouse was partially logged, but not burned off, and

the frame of the courthouse was up, but not enclosed. The building was completed in the fall of 1843, however. On April 29, 1844, the first court session was held in the new structure.

The county's first permanent courthouse was most attractive from an architectural standpoint and must have been the pride off the citizenry. It undoubtedly made a substantial contribution to the rapid development of the county during the next decade.

It soon became apparent that the courthouse was inadequate in size to meet the needs of a fast growing county. In 1845, Mr. Sprott, who served as clerk and recorder from 1841 to 1851, was authorized to erect a building for



Frame courthouse built in 1843. DeKalb County's first permanent courthouse. (Original hangs in the DeKalb County Courthouse.)

his use on the southwest corner of the public square at a cost not to exceed two hundred dollars, to which an additional fifty dollars was later added. In the fall of 1846 a separate office building was constructed on the northwest corner of the public square for the use of the auditor. In 1847 John Morris was permitted to erect a private office on the west side of the public square. Mr. Morris was limited to a structure twenty feet square, was to occupy it until such time as it was wanted for public use, and was to pay one dollar annual rent. It is believed that the jail was also located on the public square during this era. These "shanties" remained in use until 1864. They were then moved to the west side of Jackson Street directly west of the court square.

By the spring of 1863 measures had been taken for the erection of a new courthouse, and the old building was moved approximately forty feet north of its original location to make room for its successor. The last court session held in the old structure was during the spring term of 1864.

In September, 1864, the old building was sold to Daniel Altenburg for the sum of twenty-five dollars. He partially dismantled it and removed everything of value. This was near the end of the Civil War, and when news reached Auburn that Richmond, the capital of the waning Confederacy, had been captured by the Union Army, a huge crowd of local citizens congregated around the square for a public celebration. It was suggested that a bonfire would be appropriate, to which Mr. Altenburg replied, "If you want to make a bonfire, you may burn the old courthouse." He was soon taken at his word, and the old building, for years the

scene of local justice, found a glorious end in the blazing flames of a national celebration.

V.

BRICK COURTHOUSE BUILT IN 1864

After only twenty years the frame courthouse had become inadequate for the fast growing county. The handsome little building did not contain the space needed for county offices. The extra offices around the square were small, unsightly, and inefficient. The population of DeKalb County had grown from about 3,000 in 1840 to 13,880 in 1860. This was a prosperous time. A new courthouse was in order.

The plans and specifications for the new courthouse were approved by the board of commissioners on April 20, 1863, and the contract was actually let on June 4 of that year. It was awarded to Alpheus Wheelock, John McKay, and William Valleau for the sum of \$23,372.

Brick used in the building was manufactured locally at the Woodbury Farm located three-quarters of a mile east of Auburn. Within one month the foundation pits had been excavated and stone for the walls delivered to the square. The foundation was completed by September 10, 1863, and the cornerstone laid on the northeast corner of the foundation walls with appropriate ceremonies. On July 1, 1863, a bell weighing six hundred pounds and cast at the Buckeye Bell Foundry, Cincinnati, Ohio, was brought by train to Waterloo and thence by team to Auburn.

The new courthouse was ready for occupancy before the December 1, 1864, contract completion date. The surplus

brick was used to construct a large brick house at the corner of Tenth and Main streets, which at that time was known as the "John Henry Property."

The first floor of the courthouse building was divided into four offices, each twenty-one by twenty-four feet. The entrance was via a hallway extending east and west through the building with large double doors of iron and wood at each end. The windows were secured by inside iron shutters and each office was provided with fireproof iron door vaults. The courtroom was on the second floor and originally measured sixty-four by sixty feet, with grand and petit jury rooms on the west end. The roof was of Vermont slate laid on wood lath. At the west and front end there was an octagonal tower twenty-two feet in diameter and eighty feet high. From the second story a spiral staircase led to a balcony which commanded a bird's-eye view from the Town of Auburn and surrounding area.

From the summit of the dome extended a flagstaff which supported a copper eagle at an elevation of 115 feet.

This courthouse was to serve the county well for many years. The large courtroom was used extensively for conventions and other gatherings. Old settlers looked forward to court sessions, which gave them an excuse to congregate, talk over early days, exchange opinions on the issues of the day, and listen to evidence and enjoy the eloquence and arguments of attorneys as spectators or interested parties.

As had its predecessors, this courthouse eventually became inadequate to serve the needs of an ever-growing county and its government. Demolition of the structure was a spectacular event. Strategically placed charges of dynamite quickly removed the tower, which had been a DeKalb County landmark for almost half a century.

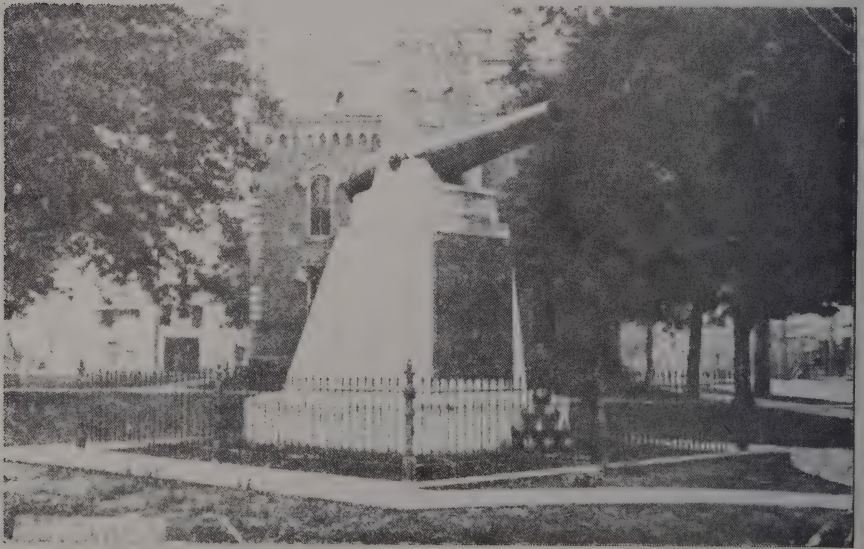
DeKalb County Courthouse
Auburn, Ga. 1864



The brick courthouse was substantially smaller than its successor. The war monument predates the present courthouse. (John Martin Smith Collection)



Courthouse park. The public square has always served as a gathering place for the county's residents. The W.C.T.U. fountain is in the foreground. The bandstand is on the right and the courthouse and jail can be seen in the background. (John Martin Smith Collection)



Long a landmark, the monument is: "Dedicated to the Memory of DeKalb County Soldiers." Its iron fence and cannon balls are gone, but a lion has been added to each side. The old DeKalb County Jail is in the background. (John Martin Smith Collection)



The DeKalb County Fair has been held on the square for many generations. This picture c. 1902 shows the DeKalb Band Wagon. The courthouse tower can be seen in the background. (Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum Collection)



Brick courthouse and jail. Both were located on the square. The buildings faced west. (John Martin Smith Collection)



The courthouse tower was felled in a few seconds with appropriately placed charges of dynamite. (John Martin Smith Collection)

VI. ANOTHER TEMPORARY COURTHOUSE AND THE GREAT FIRE OF 1913

After the demolition of the brick courthouse and before the completion of the present stone courthouse, a

temporary courthouse was established in a building between West Eighth and West Ninth streets along the east side of South Jackson Street.

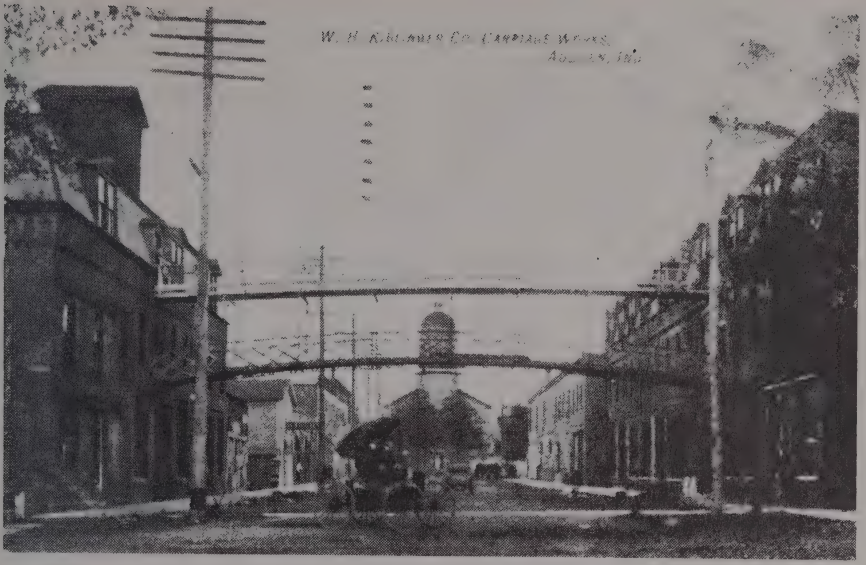
At that time the W.H. McIntyre Company Automobile Plants One and Two were located along the east side of South Jackson Street. Although extensively modified, the north building still stands and is the location of the present Cunningham Pharmacy. The south building was identical and was connected to the north building by passageways extending over West Eighth Street at both the second and third story levels.

The south portion of the south building was used as a temporary courthouse. All court offices and records had been moved to the building. It was ideal for this purpose due to its size, central location, and the fact that it had a large walk-in vault for record storage. A crude courtroom was set up in a large storage room.

On the evening of February 8, 1913, this building burned in what was the most disastrous fire DeKalb County has ever known. The alarm was sounded about dusk and the whole town turned



The fire of February 8, 1913, was disastrous. Fortunately many county records were saved and moved to the new courthouse then under construction. (John Martin Smith Collection)



W.H. McIntyre Automobile Plants One and Two. The temporary courthouse was located in the building on the right during the construction of the present courthouse. View is looking east on West Eighth Street toward the old courthouse. The buildings were connected on both the second and third floor levels. (John Martin Smith Collection)



Ruins of McIntyre Building Number Two which housed the temporary courthouse after the disastrous fire of February 8, 1913. The building was located at the present site of the Masonic Temple Building. (Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum Collection)

out to help fight the fire. The water supply was soon exhausted and little could be done to fight the fire as it spread throughout the three-story building. The firefighters and citizens concentrated on retrieving as much as possible from the burning building. Fortunately, most county records were saved. Most important were the Recorder's records, which affected the title to real estate. The only records lost completely were those of the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court.

The records which were saved were quickly moved to the partially completed courthouse and temporary offices were established there. Necessity pressed the new building into service before it was completed.

The burned building also housed many other businesses. The McIntyre Auto salesroom lost five McIntyre cars, the Double Fabric Tire Company lost most of its assets, and the Auburn Courier lost all but some typewriters and office equipment.

VII.

THE NEW COURTHOUSE

A. First Stages

DeKalb County citizens and officials had talked about a new courthouse for many years. While the brick courthouse with its octagonal tower was a handsome building, it had become too small for the county's needs and some feared that it was not a safe place for the deposit of county records.

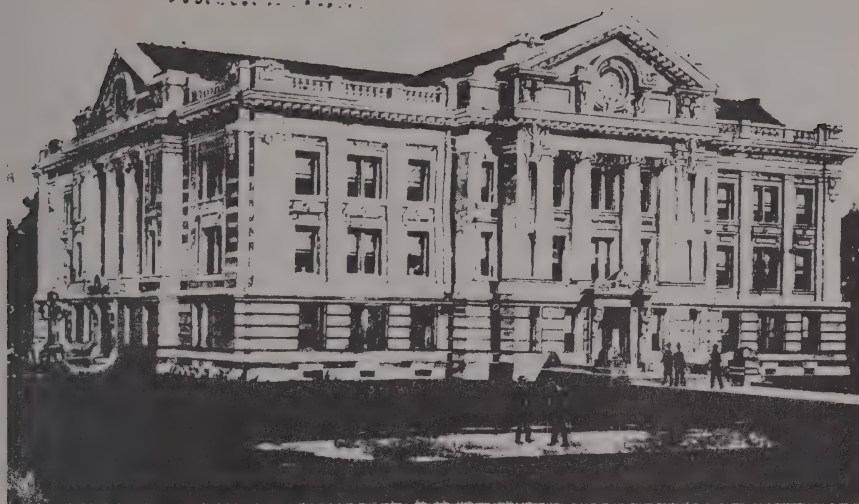
A new county infirmary was needed also. After considerable discussion, it was concluded that the infirmary should be built first because it could be paid for over a relatively short period of time. Thereafter, the new courthouse

could be built. The County Infirmary (now called DeKalb County Farm) was completed in 1908.

DeKalb County continued to grow. The first decade of the century was particularly prosperous and progressive. Electric lights and telephones became available in Auburn. Interurban lines made distant communities conveniently close. The automobile was developing as a means of transportation. There were several automobile manufacturers in Auburn and all were doing well. A new courthouse was a symbol of community progress and a matter of great pride. The desire for a new courthouse intensified, and it soon became apparent that it would be financially possible.

The first organized effort toward the building of a new courthouse began on Friday, August 13, 1909, when the Auburn Commercial Club (predecessor to the Auburn Chamber of Commerce) called a meeting of its directors "...to discuss ways and means and plans whereby DeKalb County might have a courthouse suitable for the needs of the county, a place where records would be safe from the ravages of fire and in keeping with the wealth of the county."

This group decided to request the DeKalb County Commissioners to make a requisition for funds to prepare plans and specifications for the new building in time for the DeKalb County Council to act on it at their September meeting. They determined they would have to act quickly in order to get this accomplished, so they formed an "automobile party" that afternoon and drove to the home of their commissioner, Thomas F. Elson, to discuss the matter. Mr. Elson agreed to call a special meeting of the commissioners.



Architect's conception of the new courthouse. There are some significant differences between this drawing and the finished building. (John Martin Smith Collection)

The commissioners met on August 16, 1909, and made an appropriation of \$1,000, of which \$200 was to be available in 1909 for the inspection of other buildings, and of which \$800 was to be used for preparing plans and specifications. The DeKalb County Council met on September 9, 1909, and appropriated \$200 to provide for the inspection of other buildings. The County Infirmary had been paid for with a tax levy of 44 cents per \$100 valuation. The council decided to leave this levy in effect in order to accumulate funds for the new courthouse.

The commissioners began inspecting courthouses in other counties and were soon ready to express their preferences to architects. They met on February 13, 1910, with several prospective architects. The firm of Mahurin and Mahurin of Fort Wayne was selected on February 15, 1910, and instructed to

begin preparing plans in accordance with the preferences of the commissioners.

The prominent firm was a wise choice for the design of the DeKalb County Courthouse. Members of the firm were Marshall S. Mahurin and his nephew, Guy M. Mahurin. The former had been orphaned at an early age and thereafter resided in Auburn with a sister. He started with the architectural firm of T.J. Tolan & Son, who designed the Allen County Courthouse. After Mr. Tolan's death, he went with a Tolan employee, John F. Wing, and later formed a partnership, Wing and Mahurin, which continued until 1907, when the Mahurin and Mahurin firm was formed.

This firm specialized in public buildings, such as courthouses, jails, schools, and churches. The Mahurins designed the courthouses at Michigan City and Bloomington, Indiana, the

Fort Wayne Scottish Rite Cathedral, the Ball State residence at Muncie, and many other prominent buildings.

The estimated cost was to be \$250,000, and requisition in this amount was made by the commissioners in August, 1910, and an appropriation in a like amount was made by the council at their September meeting. A bond issue of \$150,000 to be paid over a period of ten years at 3½ percent interest was also approved. The county had a surplus of \$100,000 to be applied to the construction cost and was otherwise debt-free.

Contractors were invited to bid on the project, and ten bids were received. They were opened May 4, 1911, and the bid of J.B. Goodall of Peru, Indiana, in the amount of \$185,000 for the basic construction was accepted.



Cornerstone of old courthouse was incorporated into new courthouse. It may be seen just to the north of the east entrance. (Davis Studio)

Demolition of the old courthouse began on May 8, 1911. The work progressed rapidly, with as many as fifty men being employed on the project at one time.

B. The Cornerstone Ceremonies

Cornerstone laying ceremonies were held on Thursday, July 27, 1911. The program began at 10:30 a.m. and lasted through the afternoon. The program commenced with numbers by the Waterloo, Garrett, and Auburn bands. The cornerstone weighed five tons and was laid by the DeKalb Lodge No. 214, Free and Accepted Masons. William Geake, Deputy Grand Marshall of Indiana, was the master of ceremonies and addressed the crowd first.

After a dinner break, those gathered were addressed by J.D. Leighty, Judge Frank M. Powers, Newton W. Gilbert and Governor Thomas R. Marshall.

J.D. Leighty was chairman of the Arrangements Committee and gave an historical sketch of the old courthouse.

Frank M. Powers was the Circuit Court judge (DeKalb and Steuben Counties) and spoke generally on justice and liberty.

Newton W. Gilbert was vice-governor of the Philippines.

The principal speaker of the day was Governor Thomas R. Marshall of Columbia City. He was well-acquainted in Auburn and had appeared in DeKalb Circuit Court many times. The governor was introduced by J.D. Leighty, who said:

"We have with us today, an honored citizen of a nearby county. One whom has often practiced his profession in the

court of this county; one who by ability and forceful eloquence has attained high standing throughout the county; one who has been chosen by the people of our state to the highest place within their gift; one who is a prospective candidate for his party for the place of greatest honor, trust, and power that can be conferred on any man — the Presidency of the United States.”

Governor Marshall had been popular throughout the state and had gained considerable national recognition. He had announced his candidacy for president of the United States just a week before. His address was the first since he had made the announcement and was clearly that of a national candidate. The content of the speech is striking, in that the speech could be given by a present-day presidential or vice-presidential candidate and be almost wholly applicable to the issues — law and order, individual freedom, energy, government control, the power of the courts, and consumer protection.

Marshall campaigned on these themes throughout the country. His chief opponent was Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey. After twenty-six ballots at the 1912 Democratic Convention, Wilson and Marshall were deadlocked, neither with enough votes to prevail. Marshall then agreed to give his votes to Wilson in exchange for the vice-presidential nomination. The ticket was elected. Marshall had a distinguished political career but ironically is remembered most for this statement: “What this country needs is a really good five-cent cigar.”

C. The Most Magnificent Building Ever Built In DeKalb County

Work progressed steadily on the huge building. It was even more beautiful than the architect's renderings.

It is modern Ionic Greek architecture. The shape of the building is a parallelogram with a frontage of 140 feet on the east and west, and a depth of 116 feet on the north and south. It covers 18,000 square feet, and its three floors total 54,000 square feet, or about one and one-fourth acres. The total height is 56 feet, and it contains 1,170,000 cubic feet.

The first floor is fourteen feet high and is five steps above ground level. It originally contained the sheriff's office, surveyor's office, assessor's office, custodian's room, stale record room, assembly hall which seats six hundred people, and a “Women's Rest and Retiring Room” and a “Men's Public Toilet Room.”

The second floor is also fourteen feet high and contains the auditor's, treasurer's, recorder's, and clerk's offices and the Commissioners' Court.

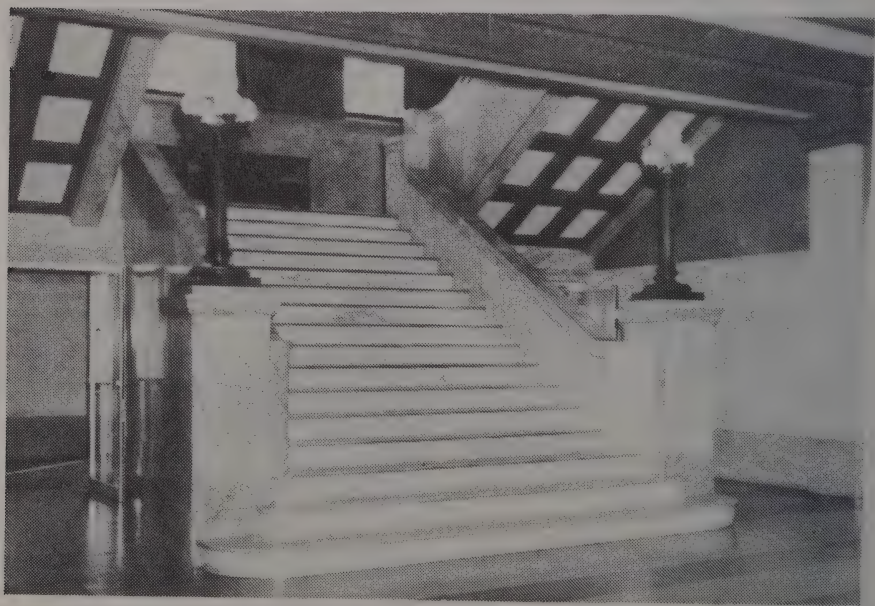
The third floor is thirteen feet high and originally contained two courtrooms, law library, grand army room, county school superintendent's rooms, grand jury room, petit jury room, and witness room.

The Circuit Courtroom is 40 feet by 60 feet and has a ceiling height of 25 feet. Originally the entire ceiling was of Florentine glass under a skylight. Because the acoustics were poor, the Florentine glass was covered with acoustical tile in the 1950's.

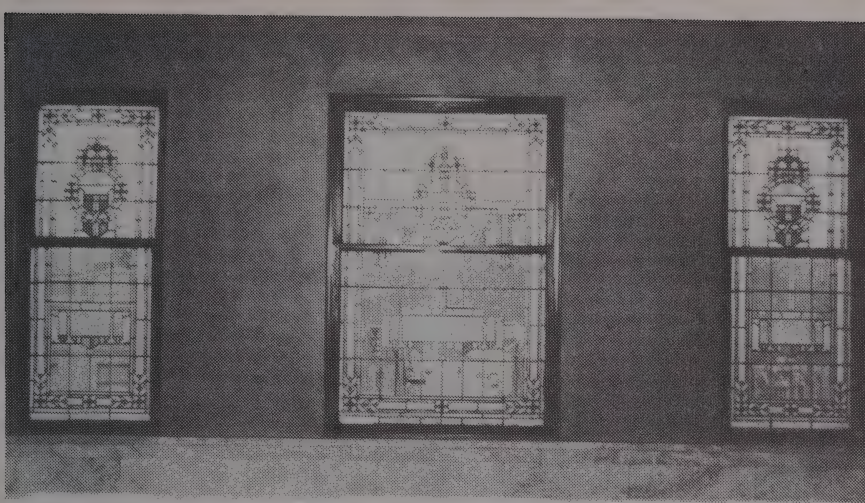
The building is faced with Indiana oolitic limestone over brick. The interior columns, floors, and roof are



The main (west) entrance of the new courthouse shortly after completion. (John Martin Smith Collection)



East staircase. All of the marble was imported from Vermont. (Davis Studio)



Florentine and clear glass windows in east stairwell. (Davis Studio)

reinforced concrete and all interior partitions are made of gypsum blocks. The corridor floors are encaustic tile, and the offices are marblithic tile. The courtroom and law library floors are cork tile. The corridor wainscoting and the stairs are built of Vermont marble.

The interior columns, walls, and ceilings are beautifully decorated to resemble marble. This work was done by a crew of Italian decorators brought in from the East.

The only wood in the building is in the Circuit Courtroom wall paneling. All of the doors, casings, trim, and all counters, furniture, files, and shelving are made of steel grained to imitate oak wood.

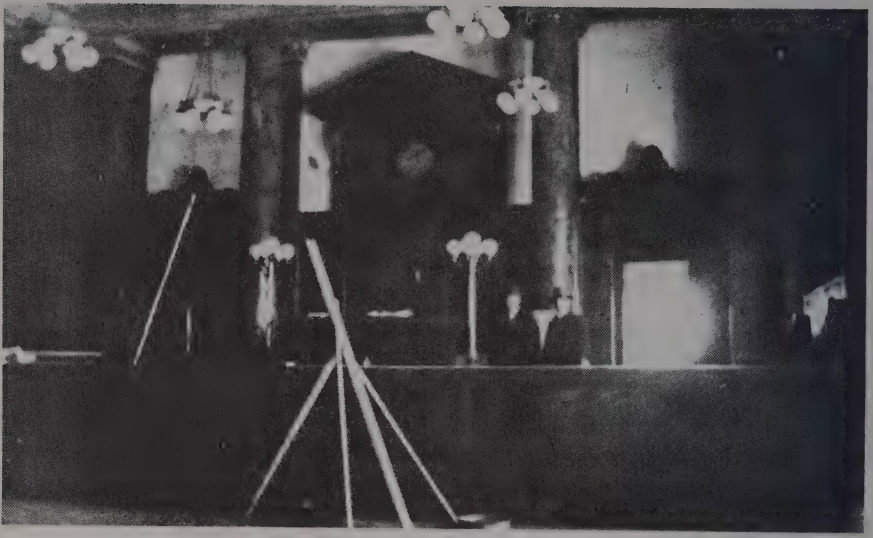
The large brass master clock located on the first floor controlled the pediment clocks and twenty-two secondary clocks located throughout the building by means of air tubes. An impulse of air is sent forth every alternate minute and inflates the diaphragm of the secondary clocks. The opening of the valves in the master clock in alternate minutes releases the

impulse and allows all air in the tubing system to equalize. Thus all secondary clocks are moved forward a minute at a time. The system was manufactured by the Hahl Automatic Clock Company of Chicago. The pediment clocks have been electrified in recent years.

Both gas and electric lights were installed when the building was built. Natural gas was plentiful in Auburn at the time, but electricity prevailed. The gas fixtures can still be seen. A central vacuum cleaning system is no longer used. The roof was originally red tile, but has been replaced by copper. A flagpole surmounted by an American Eagle was originally installed on top of the building.

The Florentine glass dome is a sight to behold. It is wholly contained within the attic level and is illuminated by skylights during the day and electric lights at night.

The building contains 473 carloads of material and weighs approximately 11,301 tons. The total cost, including furnishings was \$317,072.14.



Circuit courtroom during construction. The beautiful chandeliers have been replaced with modern florescent lights. (John Martin Smith Collection)



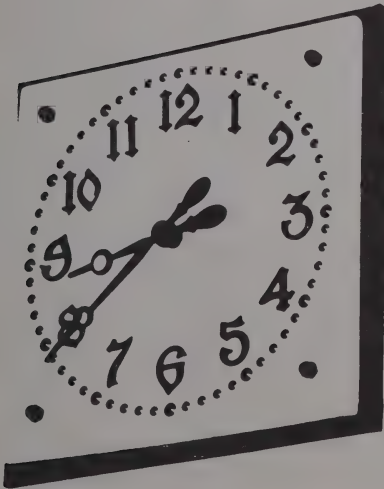
Circuit courtroom. Florentine glass ceiling panels were illuminated from above by means of skylights. They have since been covered and the chandeliers removed. (John Martin Smith Collection)



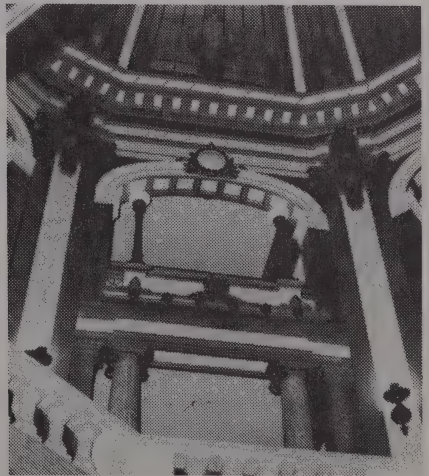
Master clock on first floor operates pediment and small clocks throughout the building by means of pneumatic tubes.
(Davis Studio)



Chandelier in east stairway.
(Davis Studio)



Office clock operated by master clock.
(Davis Studio)



View from ground level of the rotunda showing second and third floor levels and the Florentine glass dome.
(Davis Studio)



SPIRIT OF INDUSTRY

The center group, a female figure, allegorical of the State of Indiana, her right hand resting upon the constitution and her left hand holding the great seal of the state, giving protection to the agricultural and industrial endeavors of the county, assisted and counseled by a male figure, allegorical of the finest spiritual qualities of the human mind. At the base of the center group a figure symbolic of education, a woman teacher instructing a future citizen, on the left different manufacturers are portrayed, and on the right, agriculture is represented by a great field of golden wheat, with harvesters in the distance, and in the foreground, cows and sheep, important domestic industries of the county.

D. Mural Paintings

The mural paintings on each side of the landing between the second and third stories are a principal feature of the DeKalb County Courthouse. They are eighteen feet in width and twelve feet in height.

The murals were painted in New York City by Arthur Thomas, who was born in Dresden, Germany, in 1858 and came to the United States in 1893.

Mr. Thomas also did the murals on either side of the bench in the Circuit Courtroom. They are allegorical of justice and liberty.

The DeKalb County Courthouse was

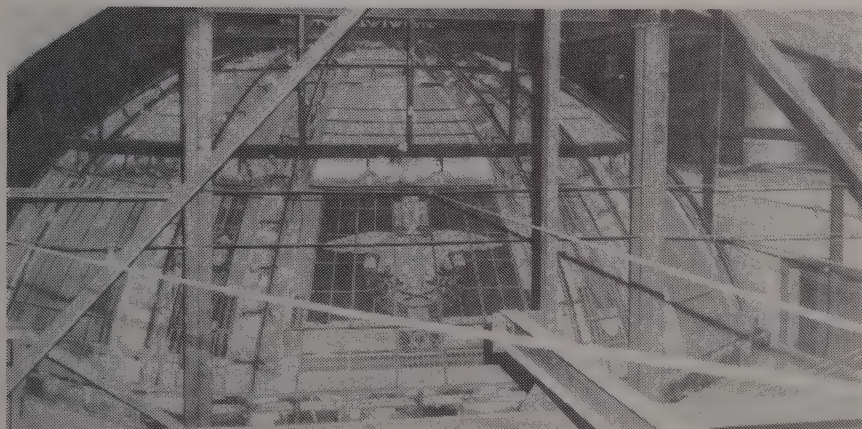
designed and built to serve this county for many years. It has provided sufficient room for growth while most other counties have found themselves cramped for office space. The foresight of those who designed and built the courthouse is attested to by the fact that a second courtroom was provided. It was not utilized until 1976, when the DeKalb County Court was established.

The DeKalb County Commissioners have very carefully maintained the buildings, and it continues to be a most beautiful building which will serve DeKalb County for many more years.



SPIRIT OF PROGRESS

The center group represents a monumental figure of Baron DeKalb being crowned by the Goddess of Victory as one of the bravest heroes of the Revolution. His horse being killed under him, he has regained his feet and, although badly wounded, is setting a fine example to his soldiers in attacking the enemy again and again, until mortally wounded. To the left, in the background, are scenes from the wars with the Indians, which were unavoidable before a final peaceful settlement of the country was possible. At the right, Columbia is proclaiming peace and liberty to the country. In the foreground, starting on the trail, is one of the early pathfinders, and in the distance a settler with his family is tilling the soil of the county.



The Florentine glass dome from the top or attic level. It is illuminated by glass skylights during the day and by electric lights at night. (Davis Studio)

E. The Dedication

After almost five years of planning and building, the DeKalb County Courthouse was completed. A dedication ceremony befitting the occasion was arranged and was held on Thursday, June 18, 1914.

The Evening Star reported:

"Amid the cheering of thousands of people, the playing of bands and the fluttering of flags, DeKalb County's new \$300,000.00 courthouse was dedicated with appropriate exercises this afternoon.

"From early in the morning until late in the afternoon, streams of people poured into the county seat to witness the ceremonies in connection with the dedication of the second finest courthouse in the State of Indiana. The crowd late this afternoon was estimated at 10,000 to 15,000 people.

"The dedication proper opened with a band concert by the Auburn City Band from 8:45 to 9:10. At 9:10 the band formed a line and marched to the Vandalia Depot to meet the Butler delegation. At 9:45 the Auburn Band marched to the Lake Shore Depot to meet the Angola delegation, while the Butler band played a concert at the bandstand.

"The Old Settlers had their program in the morning, and an unusually large number were present. The Hon. Newton Gilbert, of Angola, recently the Vice-Governor of the Philippines, made the chief address of

the day. The biographers report showed that an unusually large number of Old Settlers died during the past year.

"During the noon hour the bands played concerts, the Butler Band from 12:00 to 12:30, the Auburn Band from 12:30 to 1:00, and the Garrett Band from 1:00 to 1:30. At 1:30 all the bands formed a line in front of the Swineford Hotel and escorted the speakers to the stand.

"The Royal Black Hussar Band of Auburn opened the afternoon program with a short concert, which was followed by a song by a chorus. After the invocation of Rev. J.G. Wise and a duet by H.C. McClung and F.A. Pribbenow, Judge Frank M. Powers addressed the audience. The Quinque Quartette of Waterloo followed with a song, after which the building was formally dedicated by the noted jurist, Judge John W. Hannan of LaGrange. The program was concluded by the raising of the American flag, a song by the chorus, and a fire drill by the Auburn Fire Department."

The general contractor, J.B. Goodall, delivered the key to the building to the architect, Marshall S. Mahurin, who in turn presented it to the DeKalb County Commissioners. The board presented the key to Judge Frank M. Powers, who presented it to the Hon. John W. Hannan, orator of the day, with the request that he dedicate the DeKalb County Courthouse to "Utility, Justice,

and Liberty.”

The Royal Black Hussars was an Auburn band that played on the Lincoln Chautauqua System throughout the Midwest. The Evening Star reported:

“The seventeen musicians played as one man and to sum up their work in two words, one has but to say that this is ‘Some Band.’ Their work was highly appreciated, not only by officials in charge of the day’s program but the throngs that stood spellbound throughout their concert.”

Thousands came to Auburn for the occasion. The Evening Star noted:

“Automobiles lined Main Street from north to south, and the side streets were filled with machines. Never before were there so many automobiles seen in Auburn at one time.”

The Shannon Stock Company was in town with a tent show, “The Village Gossips.”

The Auburn merchants enjoyed the influx of people. Beidler’s Shoe Store advertised:

“We have had made especially for Dedication Day a beautiful oval pocket mirror with a picture in colors on back of DeKalb County’s New Courthouse. To every Man or Woman who will come in our store and register, we will give one of these beautiful souvenirs. They will be useful and be a constant reminder of DeKalb County’s Best and Largest Shoe Store where We Fit Your Feet.”

The dedication program was full of the customary pomp and ceremony of the day, but the DeKalb County Courthouse has clearly lived up to the purpose for which it was dedicated: “Utility, Justice, and Liberty.”

VIII.

DEKALB COUNTY JAILS

The first DeKalb County Jail was authorized by the DeKalb County Commissioners on May 9, 1838, several years before a permanent courthouse was authorized. The jail was to be built of logs and was described as follows:

Said jail to consist of one ground room, sixteen feet square inside of the walls. The upper soil where the jail stands shall be removed and three sticks of timber one foot square and twenty feet long shall be bedded ten inches into the ground, twenty feet apart from the outside of the two extremes, upon which a floor shall be laid of timber, a foot thick and eight to sixteen inches wide, making a floor twenty feet square, upon which said jail shall be built of double walls on each side two feet thick. The inside wall shall be eight feet high between floors. It shall have a shingle roof and be lighted by one four-light window of eight by ten glass. It shall be secured by iron grates of inch square bars running at right angles, three inches apart.

The jail was apparently located on the square but this cannot be confirmed.

A new jail was contracted for in 1851 and completed in 1852 on the southeast

corner of the public square. It cost \$1,000 and was an improvement over the log jail. It served until 1875 and was then moved to the northeast corner of Cedar and Ninth streets and used for the Auburn Town Hall and Fire Barn.

The next jail was a handsome structure designed by T.J. Tolan & Son of Toledo and later of Fort Wayne. It was built by James R. Duncan, William Crane, and Harmon Lydecker of Waterloo at a total cost of \$28,647. It was equipped with triple gates and the latest Scandinavian locks. The structure was of the classical Italianate architecture. It also contained a residence for the sheriff. The building was located on the southeastern corner of the public square and remained there for several years after the present courthouse was built. It was razed in 1919 when the present jail was com-

pleted.

The old jail on the public square was an eyesore after the present courthouse was built. It was contemplated that it would be removed as soon as it was financially feasible to build a new jail.

The contract was let on May 28, 1917, to H.H. Ackemere of Auburn for \$52,940. The final cost was \$89,535. The new jail was occupied on January 15, 1919, and is still in service. As originally built, it contained sixteen cells, a juvenile ward, a women's ward, a hospital area, and an insane ward. It also serves as the sheriff's residence.

IX.

DeKALB COUNTY FARM

Originally poor persons unable to care for themselves were farmed out on a bid basis and were boarded in private homes.

The first DeKalb County Asylum for



Present DeKalb County Jail was completed in 1919. It also serves as the sheriff's residence. (Davis Studio)

the poor was located in Butler Township, was acquired in 1856, and contained 120 acres. It was replaced in 1869 by a 166-acre farm located in Keyser Township.

The present DeKalb County Farm building was constructed in 1908 at a cost of \$27,000. It contains sixty rooms, including kitchen, dining rooms, superintendent's living quarters, laundry, and large storage areas. The large barns were built in 1918 and are 40 x 100 and 41 x 100 feet. The barn foundations were built from stone and brick salvaged from the former DeKalb County Jail which was razed in 1918.

The former insane asylum was

remodeled into a chapel in 1969.

The DeKalb County Farm has been one of the best in the area. The farm and livestock income continues to make the operation self-sustaining.

X. COUNTY GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS

A. Introduction

Counties are responsible for the administration of certain governmental functions such as law enforcement in rural areas, county road maintenance, administration of county institutions, collection of taxes, keeping of records, operation of a court system, conducting



The DeKalb County Home was built in 1908. It contains sixty rooms. The farm contains 320 acres and remains self-sustaining. (Cecil Park photo)

voter registration and elections, administration of public welfare, etc.

Administrative duties are divided among elected and appointed county officials. The board of county commissioners has both administrative and legislative powers. The county council is a legislative body whose responsibility pertains mostly to fiscal matters.

There are seven county officers provided by the Indiana Constitution — county clerk, auditor, recorder, treasurer, sheriff, coroner, and surveyor. The judge and prosecuting attorney of the circuit are also constitutional offices.

Counties may exercise any powers or perform any functions "necessary to the public interest" which are not prohibited by law or the federal or state constitutions, with the exception of certain powers reserved to the state.

The following sections will briefly describe the functions of the several DeKalb County officials and departments. It is not intended to be exhaustive but rather a general overview.

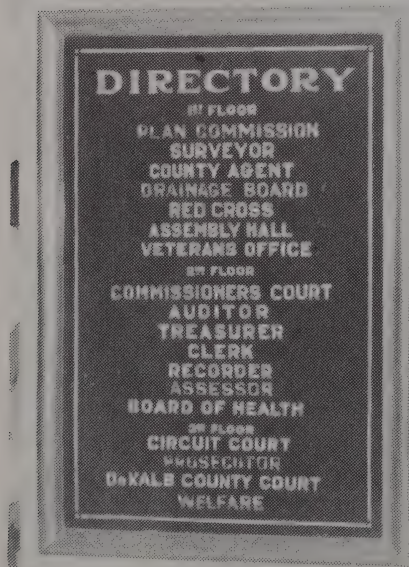
A listing of those who have served the major county offices follows the section on that office.

B. Board Of County Commissioners

DeKalb County is governed by its board of county commissioners. The three commissioners are elected from three separate commissioner districts by vote of the whole county. Their terms are four years on a staggered basis. They are responsible for the administration of all county business, enact ordinances to meet local conditions, and exercise other authority vested in the board by the legislature.

Generally, their functions are:

- Controlling, maintaining, and supervising county property, including the courthouse, jail, county farm, and other county property.
- Auditing and authorizing claims against the county.
- Letting contracts.
- Construction and maintenance of county roads and bridges.
- Exercising the county's power of eminent domain.
- Establishment of election precincts, providing polling places, and supplying election equipment.
- Appointing certain officials.
- Preparing annual budget for their area of function.
- Serving on the DeKalb



Directory gives location of all major offices.

County Drainage Board.

— Supervising DeKalb County Farm.

— Fixing and posting speed limits and other regulations for county roads.

— Providing county ambulance service.

— Providing facilities for the disposal of refuse.

— Formulating certain health and safety regulations.

The county commissioners meet every Monday and other times as necessary at the Commissioners' Court room located on the second floor of the courthouse. Their meetings are open to the public and any person is welcome to attend to observe or ask questions.

Those who have served as DeKalb County Commissioners are listed, with the first person named having served as chairman or president of the board for that particular year:

1837—Peter Fair, Samuel Widney and Abram F. Beecher

1838—Peter Fair, David Strong and Isaac T. Aldrich

1839—Daniel Strong, Peter Fair and Isaac B. Smith

1840—Daniel Strong, Isaac B. Smith and Daniel Moody

1841—Daniel Strong, Daniel Moody and Warner Spooner

1842—Daniel Moody, Warner Spooner and John Helwig

1843—Warner Spooner, John Helwig and Daniel Moody

1844—John Helwig, Daniel Moody and Oliver D. Keep

1845—Daniel Moody, Oliver D. Keep and Amzi Seely

1846—Oliver D. Keep, Amzi Seely and James M. Goetschius

1847—Amzi Seely, James M. Goetschius and Andrew S. Casebeer

1848—Amzi Seely, James M. Goet-

schius and Andrew S. Casebeer

1849—Amzi Seely, Andrew S. Casebeer and James M. Goetschius

1850—Amzi Seely, Oliver D. Keep and William Showers

1851—William Showers, Jacob Helwig and John C. Hursh

1852—Jacob Helwig, Solomon DeLong and Joseph Walter

1853—Solomon DeLong, Joseph Walter and Jeremiah Hemstreet

1854—Joseph Walter, Solomon DeLong and Joel E. Thompson

1855—Solomon DeLong, Joel E. Thompson and James M. Goetschius

1856—Solomon DeLong, James M. Goetschius and Jeremiah Hemstreet

1857—James M. Goetschius, Jeremiah Hemstreet and Amzi Seely

1858—Jeremiah Hemstreet, Amzi Seely and James M. Goetschius

1859—Amzi Seely, David Buchanan and Alexander Provines

1860—Alexander Provines, David Buchanan and Henry Fusselman

1861—David Buchanan, Henry Fusselman and John Brandon

1862—Henry Fusselman, John Brandon and J.M. Brumback

1863—John Brandon, J.M. Brumback and Amzi Seely

1864—J.M. Brumback, Amzi Seely and Alexander Provines

1865—Amzi Seely, Alexander Provines and R.G. Daniels

1866—Alexander Provines, R.G. Daniels and William Henderson

1867—R.G. Daniels, William Henderson and William McIntyre

1868—William Henderson, William McIntyre and Daniel Gonser

1869—William McIntyre, Daniel Gonser and William Henderson

1870—Daniel Gonser, George Ensley and William Richmond

1871—William Richmond, George Ensley and Daniel Gonser

1872—George Ensley, Daniel Gonser and William Richmond

1873—Daniel Gonser, Nelson Griffith and Charles R. Wanemaker

1874—Nelson Griffith, Charles R. Wanemaker and George H. Duncan

1875—Nelson Griffith, Charles R.

Wanemaker and George H. Duncan
 1876—George H. Duncan, Charles R. Wanemaker and A.D. Goetschius
 1877—A.D. Goetschius, B.F. Blair and George H. Duncan
 1878—B.F. Blair, George H. Duncan and A.D. Goetschius
 1879—George H. Duncan, Edward Kelham and B.F. Blair
 1880—Edward Kelham, John Shoub and F.D. Oberlin
 1881—John Shoub, F.D. Oberlin and Edward Kelham
 1882—F.D. Oberlin, B.D. Thomas and O.H. Widney
 1883—O.H. Widney, B.D. Thomas and Joseph Sewell (B.D. Thomas died in June 1884, and Henry Probst was appointed to complete the term.)
 1884—O.H. Widney, Joseph Sewell and Henry Probst
 1885—Joseph Sewell, O.H. Widney and Henry Probst
 1886—Henry Probst, O.H. Widney and Joseph Sewell
 1887—Henry Probst, Cyrus Bowman and O.H. Widney
 1888—Cyrus Bowman, Henry Probst (resigned November 15, 1888), J.W. Platter, W.W. Dills
 1889—J.W. Platter, Cyrus Bowman and G.I. Patterson
 1890—G.I. Patterson, J.W. Platter and John Hoffelder
 1891—John Hoffelder, James M. Henderson and G.I. Patterson
 1892—James M. Henderson, John Hoffelder and Lyman Lockwood
 1893—Lyman Lockwood, James M. Henderson and John Hoffelder
 1894—Lyman Lockwood, James M. Henderson and John Hoffelder
 1895—James M. Henderson, John Hoffelder and Isaac Hague
 1896—Isaac Hague, James M. Henderson, J.W. Bateman
 1897—J.W. Bateman, Isaac Hague and Isaac Gunsenhouser
 1898—Isaac Gunsenhouser, J.W. Bateman and E.R. Shoemaker
 1899—E.R. Shoemaker, Isaac Gunsenhouser, and Allen Shultz
 1900—Allen Shultz, Isaac Gunsenhouser and E.R. Shoemaker

1901—Isaac Gunsenhouser, E.R. Shoemaker and Allen Shultz
 1902—E.R. Shoemaker, Allen Shultz and Isaac Gunsenhouser
 1903—Allen Shultz, J.J. Oberlin and E.R. Shoemaker
 1904—J.J. Oberlin, Allen Shultz and Milford C. Clark
 1905—Milford C. Clark, J.J. Oberlin and William L. Houlton
 1906—William L. Houlton, Milford C. Clark and Solomon Shearer
 1907—Solomon Shearer, William L. Houlton and Thomas F. Elson
 1908—Thomas F. Elson, Eli Walker and Solomon Shearer
 1909—Eli Walker, Thomas F. Elson and W.A. Dannells
 1910—W.A. Dannells, Eli Walker and Edward Kelham
 1911—Edward Kelham, W.A. Dannells and Ellsworth A. Bordner
 1912—Ellsworth A. Bordner, W.A. Dannells and Edward Kelham
 1913—W.A. Dannells, Edward Kelham and Ellsworth A. Bordner
 1914—Edward Kelham, Ellsworth A. Bordner and W.A. Dannells
 1915—Ellsworth A. Bordner, Edward Kelham and Wallace Abel
 1916—Wallace Abel, George Schulthess, and Ellsworth A. Bordner
 1917—George Schulthess, Wallace Abel and Albertus Campbell
 1918—Albertus Campbell, George Schulthess and Wallace Abel
 1919—Perry DePew, Albertus Campbell and Wallace Abel
 1920—Perry DePew, Wallace Abel and Albertus Campbell
 1921—Albertus Campbell, Perry DePew and Lloyd W. Yeiser
 1922—Lloyd W. Yeiser, Perry DePew and George E. Blaker
 1923—Perry DePew, Lloyd W. Yeiser and Marion B. Clark
 1924—Marion B. Clark, Perry DePew and Everett Mullett
 1925—Everette D. Mullett, Marion B. Clark and Edward S. Kelham
 1926—Edward S. Kelham, Marion B. Clark and Everett Mullett
 1927—Marion B. Clark, Edward S. Kelham and Nicholas Funk

- 1928—Marion B. Clark, Edward S. Kelham and Nicholas Funk
- 1929—Nicholas Funk, Edward S. Kelham and Charles G. Potter
- 1930—Nicholas Funk, Edward S. Kelham and Charles G. Potter
- 1931—Nicholas Funk, Charles G. Potter and Arthur Grube
- 1932—Nicholas Funk, Charles G. Potter and Arthur Grube
- 1933—Arthur Grube, Charles G. Potter and Cleve H. Grube
- 1934—Arthur Grube, Charles G. Potter and Cleve H. Grube
- 1935—Cleve H. Grube, Arthur Grube and William H. Brechbill
- 1936—William H. Brechbill, Arthur Grube and Cleve H. Grube
- 1937—Cleve H. Grube, Arthur Grube and William H. Brechbill
- 1938—Arthur Grube, Cleve H. Grube and William H. Brechbill
- 1939—William H. Brechbill, Arthur Grube and Lloyd W. Yeiser
- 1940—Lloyd W. Yeiser, William H. Brechbill and Frank Hilkey
- 1941—Frank Hilkey, William H. Brechbill and Lloyd W. Yeiser
- 1942—Oscar Funk, Lloyd W. Yeiser and Frank Hilkey
- 1943—Lloyd W. Yeiser, Frank Hilkey and Oscar Funk
- 1944—Frank Hilkey, Lloyd W. Yeiser and Oscar Funk
- 1945—Oscar Funk, Lloyd W. Yeiser and Frank Hilkey
- 1946—Lloyd W. Yeiser, Frank Hilkey and Oscar Funk
- 1947—Frank Hilkey, Lloyd W. Yeiser and Oscar Funk
- 1948—Oscar Funk, Lloyd W. Yeiser and Frank Hilkey
- 1949—Lloyd W. Yeiser, Oscar Funk and Ira Grogg
- 1950—Ira Grogg, Lloyd W. Yeiser and Frank Schuster
- 1951—Frank Schuster, Lloyd W. Yeiser and Ira Grogg
- 1952—Claude Laub, Ira Grogg and Frank Schuster
- 1953—Ira Grogg, Claude Laub and Ora Moughler
- 1954—Claude Laub, Ira Grogg and Ora Moughler
- 1955—Ora Moughler, Claude Laub and H. Earl Husselman
- 1956—H. Earl Husselman, Claude Laub and Vern Myers
- 1957—Claude Laub, H. Earl Husselman and Vern Myers
- 1958—Vern Myers, Claude Laub and H. Earl Husselman
- 1959—Claude Laub, H. Earl Husselman and Vern Myers
- 1960—H. Earl Husselman, Vern Myers and Glenn Heffley
- 1961—Vern Myers, H. Earl Husselman and Glenn Heffley
- 1962—Vern Myers, H. Earl Husselman and Glenn Heffley
- 1963—H. Earl Husselman, Vern Myers and Cecil E. Fitch
- 1964—Vern Myers, Cecil E. Fitch and Samuel Cook
- 1965—Cecil E. Fitch, Samuel Cook and Robert Forrest
- 1966—Cecil E. Fitch, Samuel Cook and Robert Forrest
- 1967—Robert Forrest, Cecil E. Fitch and Herman L. Collins
- 1968—Robert Forrest, Cecil E. Fitch and Herman L. Collins
- 1969—Herman L. Collins, Robert Forrest and Frank Laub
- 1970—Frank Laub, Robert Forrest and Herman L. Collins
- 1971—Robert Forrest, Frank Laub and James Habig
- 1972—Frank Laub, Robert Forrest and James Habig
- 1973—James Habig, Robert Forrest and Frank Laub
- 1974—Robert Forrest, Frank Laub and James Habig
- 1975—Frank Laub, Robert Forrest and James Habig
- 1976—James Habig, Robert Forrest and Frank Laub
- 1977—James Habig, Robert Forrest and John Reinhart
- 1978—Robert Forrest, John Reinhart and James Habig
- 1979—John Reinhart, Robert Forrest and James Herzer
- 1980—John Reinhart, Robert Forrest and James Herzer
- 1981—James Herzer, Bruce Gurtner and Robert Wilder

1982—Robert Wilder, Bruce Gurtner
and James Herzer

1983—Robert Wilder, Bruce Gurtner
and James Herzer

C. County Council

The financial power of DeKalb County is placed in its county council, which serves as a check on the commissioners. One councilman is elected from each of four council districts by vote of the whole county. There are also councilmen at large who may reside anywhere, for a total of seven members. They serve staggered four-year terms.

The county council appropriates all funds for use by the county and all its officers. It also has the power to adopt a "local option" income tax. It fixes the rate of taxation for the county and adopts the county budget. The council sets salaries for most county officials within certain minimums, and establishes the number of deputies, assistants, and other employees of the several county officials and departments.

Loyal Bowerman (R)

Ronald E. Feller (D)

Charles Robert Ridge (R)

Edward Shenk (D)

Helen Graham (R)

Carl Deihl (R)

Hal E. Williams (R)

D. County Auditor

The DeKalb County Auditor serves as secretary of the board of county commissioners and keeps the accounts and issues warrants for claims allowed by the county commissioners. The auditor is the general bookkeeper of the county and keeps a record of all real estate in the county for tax purposes. Distribution of tax revenues are made to the various governmental agencies for which they are collected.

Plats of all real estate are kept by the auditor. Every deed conveying real estate must be presented to the auditor for transfer on the plat records before it can be recorded.

The office of auditor is constitutional and is elected for four-year terms, with a prohibition of serving more than two consecutive terms.

Those who have served as DeKalb County Auditors are:

1841-42 S.W. Sprott

1842-49 Aaron Hague

1849-55 Miles Waterman

1855-60 M.F. Pierce

1860-62 A.J. Hunt

1862-66 George Kuhlman

1866-70 W.W. Griswold

1870-74 W. McIntyre

1874-78 Isaac Hague

1878-82 Albert Robbins

1882-86 Thomas H. Tomlinson

1886-90 Cyrus C. Walter

1890-94 Herman N. Coffinberry

1894-98 Frank A. Borst

1898-1902 Frank P. Seiler

1902-06 Herman D. Boozer

1906-10 Emery A. Shook

1910-14 A.W. Madden

1914-18 Stanley P. Nelson (D)

1918-22 Samuel D. Johnson (R)

1922-26 Frank Shook (D)

1926-30 Estell Dawson (D)

1930-38 Frank E. Lyon (D)

1938-46 Burley Ensley (R)

1946-54 Guy Myers (R)

1954-56 Harry M. Kirkpatrick (R)

1956-58 Oliver Opdyke (R)

1958-66 Loren R. Dunn (D)

1966-74 Dorise A. Likens (R)

1974-82 Marjorie E. Carr (R)

1983--- Wilma Wilhelm (R)

E. County Treasurer

The DeKalb County Treasurer collects, holds, and disburses county funds. The office collects all taxes payable within the county. The tax duplicates received by owners of real estate are prepared by the treasurer.

The constitution provides for the

office of treasurer, which is elective. No one person can serve as treasurer more than two terms within twelve years.

Those who have served as DeKalb County Treasurer are:

1837-51	Wesley Park
1851-53	S.W. Ralston
1853-55	J.E. Hendricks
1855-57	E.W. Fosdick
1857-59	Jacob Helwig
1859-61	R.B. Catlin
1861-65	George Barney
1865-67	L.J. Blair
1867-72	F.D. Ryan
1872-76	Nicholas Ensley
1876-80	Daniel Gonser
1880-84	L.J. Miller
1884-86	Silas J. Brandon
1886-88	John L. Davis
1888-90	George W. Probst
1890-94	Reuben Sawvel
1894-96	David W. Fair
1896-98	Henry Hines
1898-1902	Francis M. Hines
1902-05	George W. Probst
1906-10	H.H. Slaybaugh
1910-14	John J. Oberlin (D)
1914-18	Samuel G. Stone (D)
1918-22	Charles H. Baber (R)
1922-26	Carrie Pauline Weaver (R)
1926-30	Ward Jackman (R)
1930-34	Merritt M. Maxwell (D)
1934-38	Claude P. Fitch (D)
1938-42	Harvey Phelps (R)
1942-46	Grace Fry Phelps (R)
1946-50	John C. Brown (R)
1950-54	Hildred Ensley (R)
1956-60	John C. Brown (R)
1960-68	Joan Myers Knepper (R)
1968-72	Charles Farrington (R)
1972-80	Joan Myers Knepper (R)
1981---	Kim K. Folden (R)

F. County Recorder

The DeKalb County Recorder is responsible for preserving public records, including deeds, mortgages, liens, leases, articles of incorporation, and similar legal documents. Most of the documents pertain to the title to

real estate. It is from the documents of record in the recorder's office and other county offices that abstracts of title to real estate are compiled by private abstracting companies.

This office is also provided for by the constitution, and the recorder is elected for a four-year term with a prohibition of any one person serving for more than eight years within any twelve-year period.

The office of recorder was combined with that of clerk for the first fourteen years of the county's existence. The incumbents of the office since it was created have been:

1851-55	John McCune
1855-59	W.W. Griswold
1859-64	S.W. Widn
1864-68	G.R. Hoffman
1868-76	D.Z. Hoffman
1876-84	M. Boland
1884-86	John Butt
1886-90	George M. Crane
1890-94	Samuel Williams
1894-98	Milton C. Jones
1898-1904	Daniel Herrick
1904-08	John W. Henderson
1908-12	Samuel G. Haverstock
1912---	Warren McNabb (D)
1912-18	Harvey G. Williams (D)
1918-22	Henry C. Hathaway (R)
1922-26	Samuel F. Morr (D)
1926-30	Neva M. Beaty (D)
1930-34	Otto L. Waterman (D)
1934-38	U.S. Raut (R)
1938-46	Albert G. Stanley (R)
1946-47	Leslie Maxwell (R)
1947-52	Edith Maxwell (R)
1952-60	Marcelle Watson (R)
1960-68	Miriam Hunter (R)
1968-76	Lorraine Rinehold (R)
1976---	Judith Moore (R)

G. Clerk Of The Circuit Court

The DeKalb County Clerk has a multitude of functions:

—Filing, recording, and entering all

orders pertaining to civil, criminal, juvenile, and probate matters handled by the courts.

—*Ex officio* member and secretary of the DeKalb County Election Board.

—Receives declarations of candidacy for public office and issues certificates of election to local officeholders.

—Issues marriage, hunting, and fishing licenses and licenses or certificates to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, optometry, and other licenses.

—Receives and disburses support money in divorce cases, administers oaths to public officials, files notary bonds, executes applications for passports, and serves as a member and secretary of the county commission on public records.

—Handles voting registration and election matters.

The clerk is elected for four-year terms and cannot serve more than eight years within a period of twelve. The office is established by the Indiana Constitution.

Those who served as clerk of the DeKalb Circuit Court are:

1837-41 John F. Coburn
1841-51 S.W. Sprott
1851-55 J.P. Widney
1855-59 S.W. Sprott
1859-67 John Ralston
1867-75 J.R. Lanning
1875-80 G.H.K. Moss
1880-84 John W. Baxter
1884-86 D.Y. Husselman
1886-98 George A. Bishop
1898-1904 George O. Denison
1904-08 Charles A. Jenkins
1908-12 Warren A. Austin
1912-16 John Hebel (D)
1916-18 Walter W. Mountz (D)
1918-20 Charles B. Weaver (R)
1920-24 Clarence E. McClintock (R)
1924-28 J. Harvey Knauer (R)
1928-32 Glen C. Potter (D)
1932-40 Carl Walter (D)

1940-40 Carrie Pauline Weaver (R)
1940-48 Murray A. Steel (R)
1948-56 Ralph W. Bruce (R)
1956-64 Walter C. Manon (R)
1964-68 Keith Showalter (D)
1968-76 Norman L. Gerig (R)
1976--- Paul F. Post (R)

H. County Surveyor

The DeKalb County Surveyor is responsible for surveying and keeping a record of all section corners in the county and supervising the establishment, construction, and maintenance of all legal drains within DeKalb County.

The surveyor serves as an *ex officio* member of the DeKalb County Drainage Board and of the DeKalb County Plan Commission.

The surveyor is elected for four-year terms, and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served. The office is constitutional.

Those who have served as DeKalb County Surveyor are:

1852-56 Joseph Nodine
1856-60 Daniel W. Altenburg
1860-62 Marius Buchanan
1862-64 Daniel W. Altenburg
1864-65 Henry M. Stoner
1865-67 George W. Weeks
1867-70 Joseph W. McCasslin
1870-72 Isaac K. Shaffer
1872-74 Chauncey C. Clark
1874-76 Winfield S. Bangs
1876-80 J.J. Van Auken
1880-82 Azam P. Foltz
1882-86 J.J. Van Auken
1886-88 I.F. McDowell
1888-92 Jacob M. Hook
1892-96 Calvin E. Van Auken
1896-1900 J.H.W. Krantz
1900-04 Commodore P. Hamman
1904-08 John Eakright
1908-12 Charles L. Wagoner
1912-16 Alvie L. Link (D)
1916-18 Clark Scholes (D)
1918-22 J. Frank McDowell (R)
1922-28 Calvin C. Kain (D)

1928-32 Charles T. Miser (R)
 1932-38 Calvin C. Kain (D)
 1938-50 Wayne T. Van Auken (R)
 1950-76 Arnold R. Milks (R)
 1976--- David K. Wolf (R)

I. County Sheriff

The DeKalb County Sheriff also has a variety of duties:

—Acts as conservator of the peace.

—Operates the DeKalb County Jail and is responsible for prisoners within his custody.

—Serves warrants for arrest, summons in civil cases, subpoenas, and other process issued by the courts.

—Collects delinquent state income tax and levies on property for such tax.

—Sells property in mortgage foreclosure proceedings.

—Conveys persons committed to mental institutions.

—Attends sessions of the DeKalb County Council and executes its orders.

—Executes orders of the DeKalb County Commissioners and the DeKalb Circuit and Superior Courts.

The sheriff appoints his own chief deputy. Other deputies are appointed subject to the review and approval of the DeKalb County Sheriff's Merit Board.

The office is created by the constitution, and the sheriff is elected for a four-year term with a prohibition against serving more than eight years within any twelve years.

Those who have served as DeKalb County Sheriff are:

1837-50 Wesley Park

----- Thomas J. Freeman
 ----- Jonathon Puffenbarger
 ----- S.W. Ralston
 1850-54 W.K. Straight
 1854-56 Isaac Brandt
 1856-60 S.W. Ralston
 1860-62 J.N. Chamberlain
 1862-64 J.N. Miller
 1864-68 H. Willis
 1868-72 J. Plum

1872-76 W.L. Meese
 1876-78 John St. Clair
 1878-82 A.S. Lease
 1882-86 John W. Boyle
 1886-88 K. Garrison
 1888-90 J. Plum
 1890-92 Phillip Plum
 1892-94 George C. Ralston
 1894-98 Henry P. Stroh
 1898-1902 John Hathaway
 1902-04 George W. Bleeks
 1904-08 James W. Reed
 1908-12 R.L. Thomas
 1912-16 John P. Hoff (D)
 1916-20 Frank Baltz (D)
 1920-22 Twite L. Hoodelmier (R)
 1922-26 William G. Morr (D)
 1926-30 John C. Armstrong (D)
 1930-34 John P. Hoff (D)
 1934-38 Herbert N. Grimm (D)
 1938-42 Artus Coyle (R)
 1942-46 Paul F. Miller (R)
 1946-58 Frank E. Carpenter (R)
 1958-66 Dorsie A. Likens (R)
 1966-73 James D. Sims (R)
 1973-78 John L. Graham (R)
 1979-82 Larry E. Myers (R)
 1983--- Larry Metcalf (R)

J. Prosecuting Attorney

The office of prosecuting attorney is not actually a county office but rather that of a judicial circuit, which can be more than one county. The DeKalb County Prosecuting Attorney is actually the prosecuting attorney for the 75th Judicial Circuit of the State of Indiana, which is limited to DeKalb County. The office is elected for four-year terms and is not limited as to the number of terms. The office is

established by the constitution.

The prosecutor represents the State of Indiana and prosecutes violations of state statutes in all courts within his jurisdiction. He must be a licensed attorney.

He has deputies to assist in the duties of the office. The office works closely with the sheriff, state police, and other police departments in the investigation of criminal matters.

Between 1852 and 1874 there was a separate prosecuting attorney for the Common Pleas Court.

Those who served as DeKalb County Common Pleas Prosecutors from 1852 to 1874 were:

1852-54	W.W. Griswold
1854-56	Asa M. Tinker
1856-58	Leland H. Stocker
1858-60	Abner Pinchin
1860-62	Joseph W. Cummings
1862-64	Alexander B. Kennedy
1864-66	Asa M. Tinker
1866-68	Joseph D. Ferrall
1868-72	William G. Croxton
1872-74	Daniel Y. Husselman

Those who have served as prosecuting attorney of the Judicial Circuit serving DeKalb County are:

1843-45	Reuben J. Dawson
1845-47	John W. Dawson
1847-49	Reuben J. Dawson
1849-50	Timothy R. Dickinson
1850-52	Egbert B. Mott
1852-54	J.M. McConnell
1854-56	John W. Dawson
1856-58	Sanford J. Stoughton
1858-59	James M. Schell
1859-60	George D. Copeland
1860-62	Augustus A. Chapin
1862-64	James H. Schell
1864-66	Joseph W. Cunningham
1866-67	Thomas Wilson
1867-70	Thomas J. Smith
1870-72	Thomas Wilson
1872-74	Leigh H. Haymond

1874-76	William B. McConnell
1876-78	Daniel H. Moody
1878-82	George B. Adams
1882-84	Harry Reynolds
1884-86	Francis M. Powers
1886-88	E.A. Bratton
1888-90	H. Leas
1890-1902	Joseph Butler
1902-04	Alphonso Wood
1904-06	Charles S. Smith
1906-08	J. Delano Brinkerhoff
1908-10	Joseph Butler
1910-12	William H. Lease
1912-14	James R. Nyce (D)
1914-18	Winthrop W. Ketchum (D)
1918-20	Oak Husselman (D)
1920-22	Thomas P. French (R)
1922-26	Henry C. Springer (R)
1926-26	Howard S. Grimm Sr. (R)
1926-28	Milo Thompson (R)
1928-34	Richard W. Sharpless (D)
1934-36	George E. Mountz (R)
1936-38	William H. Husselman (D)
1938-42	George E. Mountz (R)
1942-46	Hugh G. Sanders (R)
1946-54	James A. Angelone (R)
1954-58	Patrick J. Purdy (D)
1958-62	Warren G. Sunday (R)
1962-66	James Phillip Butler (R)
1966-78	H. Charles Winans (R)
1979-82	Kirk D. Carpenter (D)
1983---	Paul R. Cherry (R)

K. County Coroner

The DeKalb County Coroner is responsible for determining the manner and cause of death in cases involving violence or casualty or when a person is found dead under unexplained circumstances. The coroner can hold inquests to determine the cause of deaths.

The coroner performs the duties of sheriff in case of the absence or disqualifications of the sheriff. The coroner is the only official who can arrest the sheriff.

The office of coroner is provided by the constitution, is elected for a four-year term, and is not subjected to any

limit on the number of terms.

Those who have served as DeKalb County Coroner are:

1838-39 Robert Work
1839-40 Byron Bunnell
1840-41 Wesley Park
1841-42 John O.P. Sherlock
1842-43 James Goetschius
1843-45 O.A. Parsons
1845-47 David Weaver
1847-48 Joseph Nodine
1848-49 John McClellan
1849-51 Charles C. Knapp
1851-54 Lyman Chidsey
1854-56 Lyman H. Coe
1856-60 Jeremiah Plum
1860-62 Henry Willis
1862-64 Jeremiah Plum
1864-66 George W.A. Smith
1866-68 Henry Feagler
1868-72 George Metcalf
1872-84 James J. Latson
1884-86 Francis Picker
1886-88 J.B. Casebeer
1888-90 --- Wood
1890-94 Lafayette D. Miser
1894-96 Vincent C. Bronson
1896-98 J.W. Hughes
1898-1900 Emlin G. Campbell
1900-02 Charles Comsky
1902-04 William H. Ettinger
1904-06 John C. Baxter
1906-08 Frank Broughton and Fred Briggs
1908-12 Fred Briggs
1912-16 Eugene Treesh (D)
1916-18 Howard A. Hinklin (D)
1918-22 William E. Byers (R)
1922-24 Howard A. Hinklin (D)
1924-26 Amos D. Adams (R)
1926-32 John R. Clark (R)
1932-38 Benjamin O. Shook (D)
1938-42 John R. Clark (R)
1942-50 Kenneth Caylor (R)
1950-54 Clayton B. Hathaway (R)
1954-62 R. Perry Reynolds (R)
1962-66 Floyd B. Coleman (R)
1966-74 John C. Harvey (R)
1974-82 William H. Hathaway (R)
1983--- Floyd B. Coleman (R)

L. County Assessor

The DeKalb County Assessor advises

and instructs all township assessors, serves as receiver of all returns made by township assessors, and serves as Indiana Inheritance Tax Appraiser.

The assessor is elected for four-year terms and may be re-elected any number of times. The office is statutory rather than constitutional.

Those who have served as DeKalb County Assessor are:

1914-18 Henry H. Deetz (D)
1918-22 George Scattergood (R)
1922-26 Francis M. Wiltrout (D)
1926-43 Charles E. Miser (R)
1943-54 Elmer O. Likens (R)
1954-70 Clayton E. Hartman (R)
1970-82 Ralph G. Myers (R)
1983--- William Bellamy (D)

M. County Appointive Administrative Officials

There are many other public officials who are appointed to their respective positions. These officials and their functions are:

—County Highway Supervisor. Appointed by DeKalb County Commissioners and is responsible for maintenance of roads, bridges, and culverts.

—County Highway Engineer. Also appointed by DeKalb County Commissioners and is responsible for the design and construction of county roads and bridges.

—County Cooperative Extension Service. The county cooperative extension agent and his staff are appointed by the trustees of Purdue University and provide technical assistance in the areas of agriculture and home economics.

—County Attorney. Appointed by the DeKalb County Com-

missioners and provides legal services to them and other county officials

—County Inspector of Weights and Measures. Appointed by DeKalb County Commissioners and inspects weights, scales, and other measuring devices for commercial purposes.

—County Physician. Provides medical services to the DeKalb County Jail and DeKalb County Farm. Appointed by DeKalb County Commissioners.

—Superintendent of County Farm. Manages DeKalb County Farm and is responsible for its residents. He is appointed by the DeKalb County Commissioners.

N. County Governmental

Agencies

Other county agencies and their functions are:

—County Board of Review. Reviews and determines complaints on real property tax assessments and certain other functions in regard to assessments.

—County Board of Tax Adjustment. Reviews the budgets of all governmental units within the county. May revise and modify budgets downward but not upward.

—County Election Board. Generally responsible for elections.

—County Department of Public Welfare. A major department which is administered by a five-member board. Responsible for administering various county,

state, and federal relief programs; investigation of neglected or delinquent children; investigation of proposed adoptive parents; and numerous other functions.

—County Health Department. Keeps birth and death records, enforces state health laws, issues permits for rural septic systems and other health functions.

—County Commission of Public Records. Determines where public records should be filed and when they may be destroyed.

—County Alcoholic Beverage Board. Reviews and passes upon all applications for licenses to sell alcoholic beverages at retail within DeKalb County.

—County Plan Commission. Administers DeKalb County zoning ordinances, approves subdivisions, and plans for future development.

—Board of Zoning Appeals. Hears and determines appeals on any order, requirement, or decision made in connection with the DeKalb County zoning ordinances and is authorized to grant variances.

—Department of Aviation. Operates DeKalb County Airport.

—County Drainage Board. Responsible for construction and maintenance of public drains and assessments against affected property owners.

O. DeKalb Circuit Court

DeKalb County constitutes the 75th Judicial Circuit of the State of Indiana. The DeKalb Circuit Court has general jurisdiction including juvenile and probate. Its judge is elected for a six-year term and may be re-elected for any number of terms.

The DeKalb Circuit Court appoints many officials to boards and agencies. It also appoints its own baliff, reporter, and other staff members.

The jurisdiction is unlimited. Appeals from the Circuit Court can be taken to the Indiana Court of Appeals and from there to the Indiana Supreme Court. Cases involving certain areas of law can be appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

Originally, the Circuit Court was served by a president judge and two associate judges. The president judge was usually an attorney and served the entire circuit, which was composed of several counties. The associate judges served only DeKalb County and were usually non-lawyers. There was also a separate Probate Court until 1852.

This system was modified by the Indiana Constitution of 1852, whereby the associate judges were eliminated and a Court of Common Pleas was established with its own judge. The Court of Common Pleas was abolished in 1874.

PRESIDENT JUDGES

1837-39	Charles W. Ewing
1839-39	Henry Chase
1839-41	John Wright
1841-51	James W. Borden
1851-52	Elza A. McMahon

ASSOCIATE JUDGES

1837-37	Ariel Waldern
1837-38	Thomas L. Yates
1839-48	Nelson Payne

1843-51	Samuel Widney
1848-50	Robert Work
1850-51	David Martin
1850-58	Gillman E. Mudgett
1850-58	Abraham Cope

PROBATE JUDGES

1839-46	Lot Herrick
1846-52	John C. Wade

COMMON PLEAS JUDGES

1852-56	John Morris
1856-60	Egbert D. Mott
1860-73	William M. Clapp

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES

1852-55	Elza A. McMahon
1855-58	James L. Woden
1858-58	Reuben J. Dawson
1858-64	Edward R. Wilson
1864-67	Robert R. Lowry
1867-72	Hiram S. Tousley
1872-76	James L. Best
1876-76	Joseph A. Woodhull
1876-79	Hiram Tousley
1879-80	Charles A.O. McClellan
1880-82	Hiram Tousley
1882-88	Robert W. McBride
1888-94	Stephen A. Powers
1894-97	William L. Penfield
1897-98	Frank S. Roby
1898-1903	Erza D. Hartman
1903-04	James D. Rose
1904-10	Emmet A. Bratton
1910-14	Frank M. Powers
1914-23	Daniel M. Link (D)
1927-50	William P. Endicott (R)
1951-58	Walter Stump (D)
1959---	Harold D. Stump (D)

P. DeKalb Superior Court

The DeKalb Superior Court was established July 1, 1977. It replaced the DeKalb County Court which had been established January 1, 1976. It has co-extensive jurisdiction with the Circuit Court, except as to probate and juvenile jurisdiction which is reserved exclusively to the Circuit Court. The Superior Court also has a Small Claims Court and a Traffic Violation Bureau.

Those who have served as judge of

the DeKalb County and Superior Courts are:

1976--- *Charles L. Quinn (R)*

Q. Jury Commissioners

The DeKalb County Jury Commissioners annually select a number of qualified persons to serve as grand and petit jurors.

Grand jurors function as described in the next section. Petit jurors serve as trial jurors in civil and criminal cases tried in Circuit Court.

Superior Court jurors are also selected by the jury commissioners.

R. Grand Jury

The grand jury is selected by drawing names submitted by the jury commissioners. Grand juries are charged with the duties of inquiring into:

- All cases of persons imprisoned and not indicted.
- All cases of persons out on bail and not indicted.
- All cases of misconduct of public officers.

—Condition and management of jails and infirmaries.

—Violation of criminal laws of the state.

A grand jury functions independently of any other governmental unit or office.

S. Public Defender

A separate office of public defender was established in 1983. The public defender is appointed by the Circuit and Superior Courts to represent criminal and juvenile defendants who are indigent. Those who have served as public defender are:

1983--- *Charles C. Rhett, Jr.*

T. Probation Department

A separate probation department was established in 1982. The department is charged with the responsibility of overseeing those persons placed on probation by the criminal justice system. Those who have served as head of the probation department are:

1982--- *Tim McAlhany*



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